

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (New) A guidance route search device, the device comprising:

a route point specifying unit configured to specify multiple route points including multiple guidance-time-specified route points for which guidance times and staying time periods are specified and multiple guidance-time-not-specified route points for which the staying time periods are specified without specifying the guidance times, wherein the route points are passed through a route from a departure point which a user departs at a predetermined departure time to a destination point which the user reaches at a predetermined time of arrival;

a first temporary determination unit configured to place only the guidance-time-specified route points of the route points in time periods from the departure time to the time of arrival based on the guidance times and the staying time periods, thereby temporarily determining a guidance schedule including only the guidance-time-specified route points;

a first determination unit configured to determine whether or not the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points overlap with one another in the guidance schedule which was temporarily determined by the first temporary determination unit;

a first adjustment unit configured to eliminate the overlap among the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points, thereby adjusting the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points, if the first determination unit

determined that the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points overlap with one another;

a second temporary determination unit configured to place the guidance-time-not-specified route points of the route points in the time periods from the departure time to the time of arrival, the time periods placing the guidance-time-specified route points which were adjusted by the first adjustment unit, thereby temporarily determining the guidance schedule including the guidance-time-specified route points and the guidance-time-not-specified route points;

a second determination unit configured to determine whether or not the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points overlap with one another in the guidance schedule which was temporarily determined by the second temporary determination unit; and

a second adjustment unit configured to eliminate the overlap among the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points, thereby adjusting the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points, if the second determination unit determined that the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points overlap with one another.

13. (New) The guidance route search device according to claim 12, wherein the device further comprising:

a selecting unit configured to generate multiple guidance schedules and select one of the guidance schedules.

14. (New) The guidance route search device according to claim 12, wherein the first and second determination units consider traveling times among the guidance-time-

specified route points and traveling times among the guidance-time-specified route points and the guidance-time-not-specified route points, thereby determining whether or not the staying time periods overlap with one another, and

wherein the first and second adjustment units eliminate the overlap among the staying time periods based on the traveling times, thereby adjusting the staying time periods.

15. (New) A guidance route search method to be performed by a central processing unit provided in a navigation device, the method comprising the steps of:

a route point specifying step for specifying multiple route points including multiple guidance-time-specified route points for which guidance times and staying time periods are specified and multiple guidance-time-not-specified route points for which the staying time periods are specified without specifying the guidance times, wherein the multiple route points are passed through a route from a departure point which a user departs at a predetermined departure time to a destination point which the user reaches at a predetermined time of arrival;

a first temporary determination step for placing only the guidance-time-specified route points of the route points in time periods from the departure time to the time of arrival based on the guidance times and the staying time periods, thereby temporarily determining a guidance schedule including only the guidance-time-specified route points;

a first determination step for determining whether or not the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points overlap with one another in the guidance schedule which was temporarily determined by the first temporary determination step;

a first adjustment step for eliminating the overlap among the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points, thereby adjusting the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points, if the first determination step determined that

the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points overlap with one another;

a second temporary determination step for placing the guidance-time-not-specified route points of the route points in the time periods from the departure time to the time of arrival, the time periods placing the guidance-time-specified route points which were adjusted by the first adjustment step, thereby temporarily determining the guidance schedule including the guidance-time-specified route points and the guidance-time-not-specified route points;

a second determination step for determining whether or not the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points overlap with one another in the guidance schedule which was temporarily determined by the second temporary determination step; and

a second adjustment step for eliminating the overlap among the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points, thereby adjusting the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points, if the second determination step determined that the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points overlap with one another.

16. (New) The guidance route search method according to claim 15, wherein the method further comprising:

a selecting step for generating multiple guidance schedules and selecting one of the guidance schedules.

17. (New) The guidance route search method according to claim 15, wherein the first and second determination steps consider traveling times among the guidance-

time-specified route points and traveling times among the guidance-time-specified route points and the guidance-time-not-specified route points, thereby determining whether or not the staying time periods overlap with one another, and

wherein the first and second adjustment steps eliminate the overlap among the staying time periods based on the traveling times, thereby adjusting the staying time periods.

18. (New) A guidance route search program for causing a computer to execute the steps of:

- a route point specifying step for specifying multiple route points including multiple guidance-time-specified route points for which guidance times and staying time periods are specified and multiple guidance-time-not-specified route points for which the staying time periods are specified without specifying the guidance times, wherein the multiple route points are passed through a route from a departure point which a user departs at a predetermined departure time to a destination point which the user reaches at a predetermined time of arrival;

- a first temporary determination step for placing only the guidance-time-specified route points of the route points in time periods from the departure time to the time of arrival based on the guidance times and the staying time periods, thereby temporarily determining a guidance schedule including only the guidance-time-specified route points;

- a first determination step for determining whether or not the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points overlap with one another in the guidance schedule which was temporarily determined by the first temporary determination step;

- a first adjustment step for eliminating the overlap among the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points, thereby adjusting the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points, if the first determination step determined that

the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points overlap with one another;

a second temporary determination step for placing the guidance-time-not-specified route points of the route points in the time periods from the departure time to the time of arrival, the time periods placing the guidance-time-specified route points which were adjusted by the first adjustment step, thereby temporarily determining the guidance schedule including the guidance-time-specified route points and the guidance-time-not-specified route points;

a second determination step for determining whether or not the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points overlap with one another in the guidance schedule which was temporarily determined by the second temporary determination step; and

a second adjustment step for eliminating the overlap among the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points, thereby adjusting the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points, if the second determination step determined that the staying time periods at the guidance-time-specified route points and the staying time periods at the guidance-time-not-specified route points overlap with one another.

19. (New) A navigation device, the device comprising:

a route guiding means for guiding a route based on the guidance schedule which was generated from the guidance route search device according to claim 12.